

## CLAIMS

1. A control lever (2) for a manipulator, intended in particular for heavy construction machines, comprising a frame (3) delimiting a cavity (5), and at least one control button (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19) intended to be actuated by an operator, characterized in that at least one control button (15, 16, 17, 18, 19) consists of at least one lower insulating layer (30, 39) and one upper insulating layer (27, 37) placed on top, a lower conducting element (32, 42) being attached to the lower layer (30, 39) and a second upper conducting element (28, 43) being situated opposite the first in the location of a control button (15, 16, 17, 18, 19), these two elements being separated in the absence of pressure from the operator's finger and being able to enter into contact when pressure is transmitted from the operator's finger to the upper layer (27, 37), the upper layer (27, 37) deforming and transmitting this movement to the upper conducting element (28, 43), the contact between the lower conducting element (32, 42) and upper conducting element (28, 43) closing an electric circuit generating an electric control signal.
2. The lever as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the upper conducting element consists of a convex and deformable conducting cup (43) attached to the lower layer (39).
3. The lever as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the upper conducting element consists of a conducting track made of a screen-printed conducting ink on the lower face of the upper layer (27), an intermediate layer (29) being

placed between the upper layer (27, 37) and lower layer (30, 39), this intermediate layer (29) having an opening in the location of the control button (15, 16, 17, 18, 19) and separating the upper conducting element (28) and lower conducting element (32) when there is no pressure on the button.

- 5 4. The lever as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that an outer layer (25, 36) is attached on top of the upper layer (27, 37), this layer comprising a serigraph on its inner face.
- 10 5. The lever as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the lower layer (30, 39) comprises at least one light source (45) allowing the backlighting of at least one portion of a control button (15, 16, 17, 18, 19).
- 15 6. The lever as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that several control buttons are made with the same lower layer (30, 39) and upper layer (27, 37).
- 20 7. The lever as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the number of control buttons (15, 16, 17, 18, 19) made with the same lower layer (30, 39) and upper layer (27, 37) can be varied according to the shape of the upper conducting elements (28, 43) for one and the same shape of the lower conducting elements (32, 42).
- 25 8. The lever as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the layers (30, 39, 27, 37, 25, 36) forming the control buttons (15, 16, 17, 18, 19) are attached by bonding, thus sealing the buttons.
- 35 9. A method of manufacturing a lever as claimed in

one of claims 4 to 8, characterized in that the outer layer (25) is deformed in order to form a blister (26) in the location of a control button (15, 16, 17, 18, 19), this deformation being  
5 adjustable according to the operating force required to depress the button.